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## **2020 Sponsorship Opportunity**

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[COVID-19 Impact Support]



## Our Amazing History Has Prepared Us for These Times

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**Sue Duncan was decades ahead of her time.** Considering current events and the passionate effort across America to unite in the fight to end systemic racism amid a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted communities of color, her innovative and heartfelt approach to equality nearly six decades ago makes her one of the most extraordinary and admirable figures in the history of Chicago education. She founded the Sue Duncan Children's Center in 1961 as a 26-year-old white school teacher who was troubled by the racial inequities in education after meeting a group of students who could not read. She began to singlehandedly recruit black children on the racially tense and divided south side of the city to help them excel academically and reach their potential. The program quickly blossomed into a quiet, yet monumental movement of achievement against all odds and remains in existence 59 years later.

**Our grassroots approach and emphasis on racial equity has made the program a strong model for impactful service during current times and challenges.**

The Center has served five generations of children and families and is currently run by one of its former students. The program continues to focus on academics and social adjustment to engender intellectual curiosity and a love of learning in at-risk youth through tutoring, mentoring, enrichment activities, and developing lasting relationships.

**The WIN Project is the Sue Duncan Children's Center platform to respond to the COVID-19 impact based on the needs of the 107 children we serve representing 92 families.**

The community we serve has always been subject to crisis situations, but nothing of this magnitude in recent history.

**The needs of the children and families we serve are not changing. They are escalating with added barriers.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for our academic and social adjustment program serving the African American community on Chicago's south side where there has been a significant impact.

Our response to the pandemic is not a departure from how we have worked historically to make a difference for families in crisis situations. The adjustment has been in doing so remotely, and practicing social distancing as required.

**Many of our parents are prideful, but suffering. The WIN Project (We are all In Need) encourages transparency and trust, ensures the people we serve they are not alone in the fight against COVID-19, strengthens our families to increase their endurance during an unprecedented time, and contributes to the unified effort required to eventually end the pandemic.**

Throughout the duration of the project, we remain in contact with families to learn how the pandemic is impacting them and ways we can help fill the gap.







## What Your Sponsorship Investment Will Support

- Remote tutoring/homework help and enrichment opportunities to students pre-K through high school. As with our in-person program, we are collaborating with student tutors from the University of Chicago Neighborhood Schools Program and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Sessions include tutoring/homework help, mentorship, special learning projects, and activities that will give students mental breaks from the pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic impact (games and artistic activities).
- Coordination of “tele-therapy” with our long-time partner Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Our students and families are dealing with the added stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic impact including remote learning and child care challenges, isolation, job insecurity, health issues, anxiety, grief and more. In addition to individual counseling for children, the Tele-Therapy program offers family therapy, specialized services for adults struggling with work-life balance, and trauma-informed therapies for persons who are survivors of violence and abuse.
- Facilitation of a Parent Support Group to provide mutual support and an opportunity to discuss parenting challenges and strategies in a safe and supportive space.

## What Your Sponsorship Investment Will Support *(continued)*

- College students who have been displaced from the school campus environment and back into neighborhoods that put youth at high-risk for violence, unemployment and in some cases, dysfunctional living situations. Our college students have gone from working several jobs on campus to being unemployed, potential and confirmed summer internships have been cancelled due to the pandemic, and there is a lack of reliable technology (students have been using their phones to write papers which is inefficient and time consuming). We are providing our college students with a small monthly stipend to lighten their financial loads, along with social distancing education tools as available (laptops, internet access/hotspot devices).
- Basic necessities (food, clothing, shelter resources); social distancing education tools (laptops, internet access/hotspot devices); PPE to decrease the spread of COVID-19 in high risk communities most impacted by the virus (masks in kid and adult sizes, hand sanitizer, rubber gloves); and cleaning/disinfecting supplies.
- Basic school supplies to our students to prepare them as best possible for what is expected to continue to be a challenging and non-traditional 2020/2021 school year (pencils, pens, loose and spiraled notebook paper, rulers, calculators, crayons, markers, book bags, etc.).
- In the aftermath, whether CPS schools open for physical attendance this school year or continue remote learning, our students will have an urgent need to quickly fill the academic gap resulting from pandemic impact to ensure they will be up to speed and at their current grade levels once school resumes. There will be a need for additional staff resources and funding support.





# Sponsorship Levels

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\$25,000 – “Resiliency” Sponsor  
\$20,000 – “Legacy of Learning” Sponsor  
\$15,000 – “Motivating Minds” Sponsor  
\$10,000 – “Community Supporter” Sponsor  
\$5,000 – “Patron” Sponsor

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Funds will be used to support the aforementioned efforts to provide relief to our children and families during these unprecedented times. This includes: remote tutoring and homework help for students grade pre-K through high school; support for our college students who have been displaced; tele-therapy to help our students and families manage their mental health; a parent support group; basic necessities (food, clothing, shelter resources); basic school supplies and COVID-19 PPE supplies; and planning ahead for a critical effort to fill the anticipated academic gap post-COVID.



## [Click Here to Sponsorship Payments Online](#)

\*We encourage online payments over mailing during the pandemic where possible.

### Mailing Information

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### Staff Contact

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The Sue Duncan Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For your records, our tax identification number is 36-2637756. Please call 773-942-2277 should you require a copy of our 501(c)(3) letter or any other supporting information.



## **More About the Sue Duncan Children's Center**

The Sue Duncan Children's Center is a year-round academic and social adjustment program that engenders intellectual curiosity and a love of learning in at-risk children through tutoring, mentoring, enrichment activities, and developing lasting relationships. The program serves grades pre-K through college, predominantly African American students living below the poverty line, and is located in the Oakland community on Chicago's southeast side.

The Center has served as an extended family and education resource in one of Chicago's most impoverished communities for 59 years and counting. It has been a neighborhood staple and oasis for families to thrive, spanning several generations, through consistency and a targeted community focus. Youth who attend the program show measurable progress with their grades, test scores, behavior, self-esteem, and planning for the future.

Staff focus on supporting the whole child through a curriculum that combines moral support with academic, athletic and artistic resources that include: homework completion; field trips; exercise and sports recreation; a healthy food program; music lessons; guided discussions on social issues; and special projects focusing on everything from math skill-building, practicing yoga/meditation, gardening, conflict resolution, writing/self-publishing, and other opportunities for creative expression through art.

**For additional information,** email [t.battle@thesdcc.org](mailto:t.battle@thesdcc.org) or call 773-942-2277.